UNITED STATES EMBASSY BRUSSELS. BELGIUM

Security Message for U.S. Citizens:

Upcoming Protests and events in Brussels

June 17, 18 and 19, 2016

The U.S. Embassy Brussels informs all U.S. citizens that the following protests are expected in Brussels. Police will maintain order.

On June 17, 2016 from 12:00 to 13:30 a march is being organized by refugees and homeless people in the light of the World Sickle Cell Awareness Day (https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/world-sickle-cell-awareness-day/, starting at the Jardin Botanique at 12:00, and going to the North Station at 13:00 (in **BLUE**). The end is expected at 13:30. Approximately 50 people are expected to participate. Local police will be present.

On June 18, 2016 from 12:00 to 18:00 the Naked Bike Ride

(http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org/index.php?title=List_of_rides#Belgium) is being organized, a yearly protest action to support all cyclists – both naked and clothed. It will start and end at Square Orban (in RED). Approximately 250 people are expected to participate. Local police will be present.

On June 18 and 19, 2016 the Fête de la Musique (http://www.fetedelamusique.be/2-region-de-bruxelles-capitale will take place at the Parc du Cinquantenaire (in **GREEN**). Approximately 7000 people are expected to attend. Local police will be present.

Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Belgium enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u> where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the Travel Warning for Belgium if appropriate), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution, Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Belgium</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>Traveler's Checklist</u>.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Embassy in Brussels is located at Blvd du Regent 27, 1000 Brussels and is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except U.S. federal and Belgian holidays). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S, Embassy is: 02-811-4000.

